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REMARKS

The Office Action mailed on May 18, 2007, was received and its contents carefully reviewed. Claims 1-45 were originally presented for examination. Claims 1-13, 19-22, 32-35, and 40-48 were previously withdrawn in response to a Restriction Requirement. New claims 49-55 were added in the Amendment filed December 21, 2006. Claims 14-18, 23-31, 36-39, and 49-55 are currently pending.

Applicants thank the Examiner for her consideration and assistance during the numerous telephone interviews conducted with Applicants' representatives regarding the May 18, 2007, Office Action. In these telephone conferences, Applicants' representative presented information related to the pharmacy benefits management method and system that is the subject of the present application and to the amendments to the claims presented in the Amendment filed December 21, 2006.

Specifically, in the Amendment filed December 21, 2006, Applicants amended independent claims 14 and 27 to provide additional details of the present invention and to recite the pending method claims using active steps. The features incorporated in the above amendments are disclosed at least in paragraphs [0016, 0045-0054] and throughout the original Specification.

With regard to independent claim 14, Applicants amended claim 14 to recite a pharmacy benefits management system with pharmacy benefit means, management means, and provider means and added further features with regard to the specific management means. Amended claim 14 recites a "system" rather than a "server" in recognition of the fact that multiple devices may be employed as "the means" recited.

With regard to independent claim 27, Applicants amended claim 27 to recite a pharmacy benefits management method using active steps in contrast to the previously-recited "downloading" steps. Applicants used amended claim language as discussed in the personal interview conducted with the Examiner on March 29, 2006, at the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

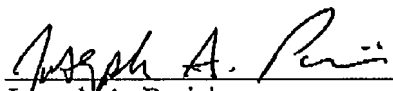
The amendments presented in the Amendment filed December 21, 2006, include language directed to the specific system and method discussed during the personal interview to define the pending claims. With respect, the claim language

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recited in amended independent claim 14 and in the claims that ultimately depend upon claim 14, drawn to a "system" rather than to a "server" does not represent a shift in the invention. Similarly, the active steps recited in amended independent claim 27, and in the claims that ultimately depend upon claim 27, provide additional context and details with regard to the processes performed. Likewise, new claims 49-55 ultimately depend upon amended independent claim 27 and recite additional features of the present invention disclosed in paragraphs [0016, 0045-0054] and throughout the Specification.

As now recited, claims 14-18, 23-31, 36-39, and 49-55 are currently pending and are believed to be in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims in light of the above remarks as well as in view of the amendments and remarks previously made in the Amendment filed on December 21, 2006.

Respectfully submitted,
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